REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date April 15, 2002

By Brian Lathrop

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Marked-up version showing the changes made:

[0002] Preparation of cell extracts, annealing of oligonucleotides, binding of cell extracts to duplex oligonucleotides containing mismatched or extrahelical nucleotides, and nondenaturing polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis were performed essentially as described (Stephenson and Karran, 1989). However, gel electrophoresis was performed in TAE buffer rather than in TBE buffer. To obtain duplex oligonucleotides, the oligonucleotide U: 5′-GGGAAGCTGCCAGGCCCCAGTGTCAGCCTCCTATGCTC-3′ (SEQ ID NO:1) (sequences were derived from Aquilina *et al.*, 1994) was radiolabeled and annealed with any of the following unlabeled oligonucleotides: L-G.T: 5′GAGCATAGGAGGCTGACATTGGGGCCTGGCAGCTTCCC-3′ (SEQ ID NO:2) (resulting in a G.T mismatch); L-G.A: 5′-GAGCATAGGAGGCTGACAATGGGGCCTGGCAGCTTCCCC-3′ (SEQ ID NO:3) (resulting in a G.A mismatch); L-G.G: 5′-GAGCATAGGAGGCTGACAGTGGGGCCTGGCAGCTTCCC-3′ (SEQ ID NO:4) (resulting in a G.G mismatch); L-A.C: 5′-GAGCATAGGAGGCTGACACCGGGGCCTGGACAGCTTCCC-3′ (SEQ ID NO:5) (resulting in an A.C mismatch); L-TG: 5′-GAGCATAGGAGGCTGACACTGTGGGGCCTGGCAGCTTCCC-3′ (SEQ ID NO:6) (resulting in an extrahelical TG dinucleotide); L-HOM: 5′-GAGCATAGGAGGCTGACACTGGGGCCTGGCAGCTTCCCC-3′ (SEQ ID NO:7) (resulting in a homoduplex); L-LOOP14: 5′-GAGCATAGGAGGCTGACACATACGTGAGTACTCTGGGGCCTGGCAGCTTCCC-3′ (SEQ ID NO:8) (resulting in an IDL loop of 14 extrahelical nucleotides). In all assays, a twofold excess of unlabeled homoduplex competitor oligonucleotide was included. As a positive control, a duplex oligonucleotide containing the binding site for the E2F family of transcription factors was used (Beijersbergen *et al.*, 1995).